

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, later this month on August 20, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) has authorized a delegation of Members of this House to travel to Ukraine to help the Ukrainian people and to celebrate with them in their celebration of the tenth anniversary of Ukrainian independence. It is a celebration of victory that belongs to the people of Ukraine, and I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for her help in bringing this resolution forward and delivering it to the people of Ukraine later this month.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCHAFFER. Further reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) who co-chairs the Ukrainian Caucus with myself; we have several dozen Members who are participants in that. For dropping this resolution, H. Res. 222, congratulating Ukraine on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence, we ask for the unanimous approval of the membership.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to remind ourselves and think about the fragile beginnings of our own Republic, after 10 years, where were we. We did not even have a Constitution in place, and it took us almost a century more to grant civil rights to all of our people. And voting rights did not come until almost another 70 years later to women, then in the mid-20th century to minorities.

So we see the struggle of this democratic Nation, this democratic Republic, to provide greater and fuller, more robust liberties to all of her people. We look at Ukraine after 10 years, she has been building broad and durable relations with the 1994 charter for Ukrainian-American partnership, friendship and cooperation, and also her distinctive partnership since 1997 with NATO.

Ukraine has done many things that the West has asked, including dismantling her nuclear arsenal. On June 28, 1996, Ukraine's parliament voted to adopt a democratic constitution of the Ukraine, providing for presidential and parliamentary elections, and we are about to embark on the third set of parliamentary elections.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFFER) and, indeed, our entire membership that Ukraine has been trying to pursue friendly relations with her neighboring countries and has been consistently pursuing a course of European integration with a commitment to ensuring democracy and prosperity for its citizens. The road has not always been easy.

Mr. Speaker, it still has many rough bumps in that road, certainly the full

development of free press and independent media; the development of a rule of law and a judicial system; a legislative branch of the government that participates fully and equally with the executive. And as we move this resolution forward, we want to walk alongside Ukraine on this journey, and we urge her to join with the community of freedom-loving nations and European nations, and hopefully in our lifetime see her fully integrated into the European and trans-Atlantic set of institutions that we have all come to respect and love.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and urge this resolution's swift passage. I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY), the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), all Members who have supported this resolution at the authorizing level, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI), and the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) who shares our interest in moving Ukraine forward.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her help and leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, Ukraine faces certain challenges. There is no question about that, and the United States is prepared to pay whatever supportive role it can to help promote private property ownership, freedom of speech, human rights and political stability. Despite all of those challenges, and some of them are not coming soon enough, the economic growth in Ukraine is opening up Ukrainian people to a tremendous amount of prosperity that they have not experienced before.

As I said before, there are lot of political figures that we have had a chance to meet over time, but the tenth anniversary of Ukrainian independence is a victory and celebration for the people of Ukraine. Their hope for freedom, democracy and an enduring, independent nation is our hope as well, and we are anxious to get to Ukraine and celebrate this monumental event with them.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 222

Whereas the proclamation on August 24, 1991 of the independence of Ukraine led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union;

Whereas Ukraine and the United States, proceeding from their shared commitment to democratic values, have expressed their determination to build broad and durable relations in the 1994 Charter for Ukrainian-American Partnership, Friendship and Cooperation and Ukraine is a country that maintains a distinctive partnership with NATO since 1997;

Whereas on June 28, 1996, Ukraine's Parliament voted to adopt the democratic Con-

stitution and Ukraine has conducted its presidential and parliamentary elections according to it, moving further away from the former communist model of one-party totalitarian rule; and

Whereas Ukraine since its independence has successfully transferred from a colony of the Soviet empire into a viable, peaceful state, which established exemplary relations with all, neighboring countries and consistently pursues a course of European integration with a commitment to ensuring democracy and prosperity for its citizens: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) as a leader of the democratic nations of the world, the United States commends and congratulates the people of Ukraine on the tenth anniversary of Ukrainian independence;

(2) the President and Parliament of Ukraine should continue their efforts to maintain the balance of powers between the executive and legislative branches of government and ensure that their cooperation is aimed at furthering democratic reforms and strengthening civil society based on the rule of law; and

(3) the United States should continue to assist in building a truly independent Ukraine through encouraging and supporting democratic and market-economy transformations in Ukraine, keeping the doors of European and Trans-Atlantic institutions open to this nation.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2320

#### APPOINTMENT OF HON. FRANK R. WOLF TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5, 2001

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
August 2, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF or, if not available to perform this duty, the Honorable WAYNE T. GILCHREST to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 5, 2001.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### INTRODUCTION OF DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) is recognized for 5 minutes.